

GLOBAL & REGIONAL DAILY

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Global markets

In a wait-and-see mode ahead of today's US April CPI report, the DXY USD index was under modest pressure in early European trade, Asian equity markets broadly ended marginally in the red and major equity futures were little changed. Global sovereign bond yields were mostly slightly higher, with UK gilts underperforming ahead of the BoE monetary policy meeting on Thursday, while USTs were relatively firmer favored by an extremely well-received 3-yr auction yesterday. In other news, WTI crude oil prices edged higher, reaching levels above \$73/bbl after a media report suggested that the US is planning to begin refilling its Strategic Petroleum Reserve -which is currently at four-decade lows- after completing maintenance work later this year. Meanwhile, ahead of a looming debt ceiling deadline, the US President John Biden met with congressional leaders from both parties yesterday in an effort to unlock the deadlock, but negotiations yielded little movement. Discussions will continue on Friday.

Greece

According to ELSTAT's 2022 Household Income and Living Condition Survey (with income reference period the year 2021), the percentage of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion stood at 26.3% (2.722mn people) of total population, lower by two ppts (percentage points) compared to 2021. Observations on this survey date back to 2015. More specifically, the percentage of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, after picking up at 32.6% in 2016 followed a downward path up to 2020 (27.4%), and then, during the pandemic, it increased by nearly 1 ppt, only to drop again in the following year (26.3%). In other countries for which data are available, the respective figures in 2022 were as follows: Belgium 18.7%, Bulgaria 32.2%, Estonia 25.2%, Spain 26.0%, Latvia 26.0%, Netherlands 16.5%, Austria 17.5% and Finland 16.3% (21.9% in the Euro Area according to the 2021 survey).

CESEE

Indications for a strong boost to exports and economic activity in Cyprus from tourism in 2023 proliferate. In February, revenues widened by 42.9%YoY, albeit at a slower pace than in January (+61.7%YoY), with the average increase in the first two months of 2023 standing at 50.7%YoY. More importantly, receipts in January-February exceeded the respective pre-pandemic level in 2019 by 11.1%. The annual increase is due to a steep rise in arrivals by 80.9%YoY, with their average level in the first two months of 2023 also exceeding that in 2019 (+11.8%), a trend based to more visitors from certain European (e.g., United Kingdom, Greece, Poland) and Middle East countries (e.g., Israel). On the contrary, spending per capita fell on average by 17.0%YoY. Robust growth dynamics in tourism are expected to continue at least in the months ahead, as according to preliminary data for March, tourist arrivals were higher by 43.0%YoY.

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